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WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Preparatory Committee
Third Session
Geneva, 14-18 September 1992
Agenda item 7

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE AND DOCUMENTATION, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE FINAL OUTCOME

Recommendations concerning the provisional agenda of the World Conference on Human Rights and its preparation submitted pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 45/155

Report of the Secretary-General

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RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS .....

International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR)

GE.92-14112/0965K (E)

THE RESURGENCE OF ANTI-SEMITISM

1. The International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) wishes to remind the Preparatory Committee at its third session of the resurgence of anti-Semitism, one of the oldest and most virulent forms of racism known to human history.

2. A longstanding taboo at the United Nations, initiated in the 1950s by the former Soviet bloc and certain countries of the third world, resulted in the systematic omission of this everlasting plague from the list of current ideological trends of racism, discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia.

3. This policy endured throughout the two decades devoted to the struggle against racism and racial discrimination worldwide. However, this taboo was lifted in the recent report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/11), subsequent to the annulment by the General Assembly, on 16 December 1991, of its 1975 resolution 3379 (XXX) which, in amalgamating Zionism with racism, contributed to the spread of anti-Semitism under United Nations auspices.

4. IFOR wishes to draw the attention of the Preparatory Committee to its written statement (E/CN.4/Sub.2/NGO/22) on the present resurgence of anti-Semitism in Central and Eastern Europe, prepared by Professor Robert Wistrich, a world authority on the subject, whose recent book Anti-Semitism: The Longest Hatred, was written to accompany a major three-part television documentary series ("The Longest Hatred") that was first shown in 1991 on Thames Television in the United Kingdom.

5. IFOR requests the Preparatory Committee to find a suitable explicit place in its agenda to debate the persistence of this racist-religious plague which, as Professor Wistrich has pointed out in his text, "remains a major challenge to all who care about the progress of democracy, human rights and pluralism in the contemporary world".